

Appl. No. : 09/470,377
Filed : December 22, 1999

REMARKS

The undersigned wishes to thank Examiner Ronald Laneau for the courteous telephone interview on September 9, 2003. The present response is submitted as consistent with the discussion at the interview.

Interview Summary

At the interview, the undersigned explained that one of the features recited in Claim 1 is displaying an image of the touch panel's ribs on a display device, as shown in Figure 4, for example. Accordingly to Claim 1, because the image of the touch panel's ribs is displayed on the display device, without looking at the touch panel, touch-operation of the touch panel can be easily accomplished by looking at the display device by using the image of the ribs as a guide. The above feature is not taught or even suggested by the prior art (Yoshimasa (EP0884691A2) or Liao (US 6,507,338)). The Examiner agreed with the undersigned, although he would need to conduct another prior art search.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 2, 11, and 16-18 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshimasa in view of Liao. However, as discussed above, the feature "an image of the ribs is displayed on a display device" is not taught or even suggested by the above references. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that Claim 1 and Claims 2, 11, and 16-18, which are dependent ultimately on Claim 1, are not obvious over the references. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 3-9, 12-14, 20, and 21 have been allowed. Claim 10 has been objected to, but would be allowable if appropriately rewritten. Claim 10 is dependent ultimately on Claim 1, and at least for the reason, Claim 10 should be allowable as it is.

CONCLUSION

In light of the Applicant's amendments to the claims and the foregoing Remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the

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Examiner have any remaining concerns which might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number appearing below.

Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: September 12, 2003

By: 

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